# Education Connection Connecting people with the environment



September, 2008 EI-456 9/2008

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Visit EEK! Environmental Education for Kids! dnr.wi.gov/eek/





### Join the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources— Education News listsery!

Stay informed of upcoming DNR and DNR-related educational opportunities and resources such as grants, professional development, curricular resources and more. **Education News** will be distributed two to four times a year. To join, visit **http://dnr.wi.gov/education/newsletter/** 

# DNR Education Programs and Resources

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources offers many exciting programs and resources for teacher training and classroom instruction.

### Air Defenders: The Quest for Clean Air

Want to be a hero? Use this multi-media, multidisciplinary training kit to deputize children (grades 4-7) and train them for their mission — to help clean the air and protect community health. As Air Defenders, they'll learn about open burning and respiratory health through science, health, and music-based lessons.

Visit us at: http://www.airdefenders.org or contact: DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov

### **Angler Education**

Help kids learn about their Wisconsin fishing heritage and how to protect the waters that sustain it. A one-day workshop provides training, materials and access to fishing gear. Materials are aligned to State Academic Standards and appropriate for use in cross-disciplinary classroom settings as well as after-school clubs and youth development programs. Look for us at teachers' conventions or contact our office to schedule a volunteer training workshop in your community.

Visit us at: http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/kidsparents/ anglereducation/index.html

# **Arbor Day Statewide Contests** (for 4th & 5th grade students)

The Forestry Division and partners sponsor an annual Arbor Day Poster Contest for 5th Graders and an annual Forest Appreciation Writing Contest for 4th Graders. The contests change themes annually. Curriculum packets are sent to teachers statewide and selected artwork and essays appear in an annual Arbor-Day Earth Day Calendar.

Visit us at: http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/ UF/awareness/

or contact: laura.wyatt@wisconsin.gov

for the poster contest and genny.fannucchi@wisconsin.gov

for the writing contest

### **Education and Training**

Visit this DNR Web page and find: Programs for Kids, Activities and Projects, Places to Go and Learn, Publications, Outdoor Skills and Safety Education, and Adult Education and Training topics. It's also a great place to find ideas for Service Learning Projects.

Visit us at: http://dnr.wi.gov/education/

## EEK!-Environmental Education for Kids

Surf around this electronic magazine for kids to learn more about nature, environmental issues, and careers in natural resources. It's a great homework helper.

Visit us at: http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/ or contact: carrie.morgan@wisconsin.gov



### **Forest Forever ParkPacks**

These mobile resource kits teach middle-school kids about sustainable forestry while sharpening their investigative skills and encouraging critical thinking processes. ParkPack lesson plans and activities are correlated with Wisconsin Academic Standards. Each teacher pack contains enough equipment including field guides, magnifiers and clipboards for 30 students.

Visit us at: http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/ parkpack.htm

or contact: sherry.klosiewski@wisconsin.gov

### **Great Lakes ParkPacks**

These mobile resource kits are located at state parks and forests along Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. The four packs address themes of: Glacial Gifts; Mysteries; Survival; and Challenges. They include activities, books, and other materials.

Visit us at: http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/ parkpack.htm

or contact: sherry.klosiewski@wisconsin.gov

### **Green & Healthy Schools**

Schools that strive to be healthy, safe and environmental models in their communities can become official Green & Healthy Schools. In this program, students and staff conduct a comprehensive assessment, discover existing healthy, safe and environmental practices, and uncover areas for improvement. They then work together to improve their school's performance, enhance curriculum, and provide better community service.

Visit us at: http://dnr.wi.gov/ greenandhealthyschools/ or contact: DNRG&HSchools@wisconsin.gov

### Milkweed Monitoring

Check out DNR's Milkweed Monitoring pages on EEK! Students can learn to find air pollution by studying Common Milkweed leaves.

Fnd out more and download a free teacher training kit at:

http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/milkweed.htm or contact: DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov

# LEAF (Learning Experiences & Activities in Forestry)

This DNR/WCEE (UW-Stevens Point) K–12 environmental education program connects formal and non-formal Wisconsin educators with forestry education materials through teacher training, K–12 Forestry Education Lesson Guides, and the distribution of existing materials.

Visit us at: http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf

or contact: leaf@uwsp.edu

### **Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Program**

Get involved in loosestrife control efforts! "See Cella Chow!" is a program to rear and release biological control insects and is a great way to effectively teach about plants, insects, and invasive species. The classroom teaching activities center on the biological control process. Topics range from a host-plant specificity experiment to an invasive plant art project.

Download this free guide at:

http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/publications/ss981\_2003.htm.

or contact: brock.woods@wisconsin.gov

### **Recreational Safety Programs**

The Bureau of Law Enforcement currently has four programs that can be taught in schools: Boating Safety, Snowmobile Safety, ATV Safety and Hunter Safety. Many of the school systems in the state already teach these, and DNR supplies the student and instructor materials along with lesson plans. Instructors must be certified by the department, and there is a small fee required for each class.

Contact: 608-266-2142 or

julie.fitzgerald@wisconsin.gov

### **School Forest Program**

School forests are exceptional outdoor environmental education sites. Nearly 200 school districts have a school forest. DNR foresters provide resource management assistance and the state school forest education specialist helps schools use these sites for education.

Visit us at: http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/ schoolforest/

# Snakes of Wisconsin, Amphibians of Wisconsin, and Turtles & Lizards of Wisconsin

This series of three full-color guides covers all the amphibians and reptiles of the state. They include range maps, species status, and species information. Cost: Donations of \$3 for Snakes, \$4 for Amphibians, \$4 for Turtles & Lizards and \$10 for a set of three. Make checks out to "Bureau of Endangered Resources" and note in the memo line "Herps Gift Account." Mail your order and check to BER, P. O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707, or call (608) 266-7012.

### State Park and Forest Interpretive Programs

Educators or other property staff provide on- or off-site educational programs for K–12 students. Programs may include guided hikes, hands-on activities, and property tours. Some

properties provide field trip guides to assist educators in planning their own educational activities on the property.

Visit us at: http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/interp/index.html

or contact: sherry.klosiewski@wisconsin.gov

### **Teachers' Guide to Wisconsin State Parks and Forests**

Teachers and students can see, touch, hear, and discover the richness of Wisconsin's natural and cultural heritage at many state parks and forests. This online guide lists over 100 field trips that are correlated to Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards. Teachers will also find the information they need to select a topic, register for a field trip, and reserve additional teaching resources.

Visit us at: http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/ interp/school/index.html

or contact: sherry.klosiewski@wisconsin.gov

### **Water Action Volunteers (WAV)**

This action program focuses on stream and river education oriented to outdoor experiences. The materials are self directed and include storm drain stenciling, river clean-up programs, and volunteer stream/river monitoring.

Visit us at: http://clean-water.uwex.edu/wav/ or contact: kris.stepenuck@wisconsin.gov

#### Where's the Air? Kit

Download your FREE copy of DNR's Where's the Air? teachers' activity guide. Students learn how air pollution forms and how human behavior affects the quality of the air. And don't forget to order your free Where's the Air? poster (also available in Spanish) on the front of this form.

Visit us at: http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/ wtair.htm

or contact: DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov

#### Wild and Forever Free Video

Listen and watch as DNR wildlife biologists and partners tell the unique story of Wisconsin's wild animals and wild places and how they protect and manage these rich, natural heirlooms. Appropriate for grades 6-12.

Visit us at: marykay.salwey@wisconsin.gov

### **Wisconsin Groundwater Study Guide**

The updated Groundwater Study Guide booklet contains thirteen groundwater exercises for students in grades 6–9, plus introductory information, student worksheets, a glossary, other groundwater activity ideas, and a groundwater education resource list. Activities are correlated to DPI Wisconsin Model Academic Standards.

The booklet and activity sheets can be downloaded at dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/ groundwaterguide.htm.

To receive a folder containing the Groundwater Study Guide and other groundwater materials, contact Laura Chern at (608) 266-0126 or laura.chern@wisconsin.gov.

### **XRT: eXtraordinary Road Trip**

eXtraordinary Road Trip: Start your computers and let the adventure begin! XRT: eXtraordinary Road Trip educational computer program enriches high school science, social studies, and driver's education classrooms about transportation and air quality. This great program will liven up any classroom!

Log on to: www.eXtraordinaryRoadTrip.org or contact: DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov

### **Project Learning Tree, Project WET, and Project WILD**

Materials and training are provided at professional development workshops and address current Teacher Standards. Participants will develop new skills, learn how to adapt activities to their curriculum, explore literature and technology connections, and share expertise with colleagues. Materials meet state academic standards.

Workshops for all programs are being scheduled continuously; check the schedule online at: http://dnr.wi.gov/education/pltwildwet/.

To get more information on the following programs or to host a group workshop at your location, contact:

dnrpltwildwet@wisconsin.gov or call (608) 264-6280.



### **Project Learning Tree (PLT)**

This national, award-winning environmental education program uses the forest as a "window" to study the natural and built environment. PLT's creative supplemental teaching activities are interdisciplinary with PreK-8 teaching activities and in-depth secondary modules.

### • PLT PreK-8 Activity Guide

Can't see the forest for the trees? Project Learning Tree uses the forest as a "window on the world" to increase student understanding of our complex natural and built world. Over 95 learner-centered activities are compatible with instruction in science, social studies, language arts, environmental science, and mathematics. Each activity features a children's literature bibliography and is correlated to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards.

### PLT for Seedlings

With these fun, interdisciplinary activities, children become nature detectives, dance with a tree, and take a simulated walk through a forest—complete with the sounds of the animals that live there. The activity guide and CD feature guided outdoor explorations; animal voices, dances, stories, and simulations; an annotated bibliography; art; assessments; and a topic-related snack. Correlated to the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards. Registry credits are available.

### PLT Secondary Modules

Bring real-life issues into the classroom with these hands-on/minds-on modules covering waste generation and disposal, environmental justice, forest ecology, and the relationship between environmental health and human health. Students will objectively examine the issues, collect and analyze data, and become involved in decision making experiences relevant to their communities. These interdisciplinary modules incorporate science, social studies, math, geography, and language arts. Modules are correlated to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. PLT-trained educators may purchase these guides from the state office.

### Project WET K-12 Activity Guide

Protection of Wisconsin's water resources is crucial for healthy people, healthy economies, and a healthy environment. Project WET uses over 90 hands-on, fun activities to promote water systems, quality and quantity, water management and stewardship, as well as the historical, societal, and cultural connections between water, people, and communities.

### Project WILD & Aquatic WILD K-12 Activity Guides

Kids love wildlife and that's why teachers and nonformal educators love this exciting conservation and environmental education program. Over 150 activities designed to develop awareness, knowledge, skills and commitment to result in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions concerning aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and the environments they depend upon. Activities emphasize hands-on, inquiry-based, and cooperative learning. Project WILD also offers a secondary Science & Civics guide and service learning ideas that involve students in environmental action projects on school grounds and in the community.

### For more information on these and other programs go to: http://dnr.wi.gov/education/





